



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.

H.R. 1206: Reducing Barriers for Veterans Education Act of 2017

Background:

While the Post-9/11 GI Bill provides important educational benefits to our nation's heroes, it does not currently cover the cost of application fees to college, universities, graduate schools, or technical and vocational schools. The National Association for College Admission Counseling estimates that the average cost of a college application fee is \$40, with many graduate school applications costing up to \$275. These fees place an extra financial burden on servicemembers trying to pursue educational opportunities.

The Reducing Barriers for Veterans Education Act of 2017 would enable eligible individuals to use a portion of their education benefits to cover up to \$750 of application fees to institutions of higher learning.

The Message:

- Individuals seeking to better their future through the Post-9/11 GI Bill should not be hindered by the high cost of application fees.
- This bill would make application fees for institutions of higher education eligible for payment under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- This legislation would reduce the financial barriers on students seeking to pursue educational opportunities.